The Choice of the equipment left to the institutes and hospitals as per resource available.

Progress of construction of AIIMS like hospital in the country

†1130. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH and FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of progress made so far in the setting up of hospitals on the lines of AIIMS in six backward States from the view point of medical facilities;

(b) what are the details of the amount sanctioned for the current year and the amount spent so far on the construction of these hospitals; and

(c) by when the construction work of these hospitals is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):(a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) which interalia envisages setting up of six AIIMS like hospitals in the under served States has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The PMSSY proposal was sent for clearance of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).' However, it was decided to place it before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) who has recently cleared it. It is now proposed to upgrade 11 medical institutions apart from setting up 6 AIIMS-like institutions. The recommendations made by the COS are being examined for placing the proposal befor CCEA. During the current year 2005-06, though there is a provision of Rs. 250 Crores in the Budget Estimates (BE) for the entire Scheme, it has not been possible to undertake any activities relating to construction/upgradation for want of necessary clearances. The proposed new AIIMS like Institutions are expected to become operational after three years from the date of approval of the Scheme by the competent authority.

Developing herbal plants

1131. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government has launched a project "Construction and Development of Medical Plants" which apart from contributing to domestic product, would also provide lucrative livelihood to the people;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.